

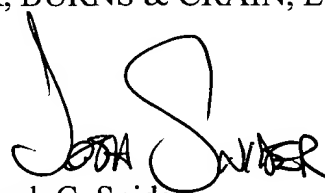
## REMARKS

Claims 17 and 18, and the continued allowance of claims 1-2, 4-8, and 17-18 have been allowed by the Examiner. Of the pending claims, only claims 9 and 20 stand rejected. Accordingly, claims 9 and 20 are canceled without prejudice herein, rendering all remaining outstanding rejections now moot. By this cancellation, Applicants do not concede the appropriateness of the outstanding rejections. The cancellation of these claims will allow all of the pending claims to proceed immediately to issuance. Applicants are entitled to file a continuation or divisional application to prosecute any or all of the canceled claims.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 1-2, 4-8, and 17-18, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney if a further interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,  
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By

  
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